

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 NEA-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DRC-01 /066 W

----- 019754

R 161530Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0783

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

UNCLAS LISBON 4477

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN IS PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH INDIA, ISRAEL

1. IN OCT 15 PRESS INTERVIEW, FONMIN MARIO SOARES STATED THAT RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDIA IS ANTICIPATED SHORTLY. BASIC ACCORD, ARRIVED AT IN DIRECT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SOARES AND INDIAN FONMIN AT RECENT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION, HAD TO SURMOUNT PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTIONAL OBSTACLE THAT DECLARED GOA, DAMAO AND DIU TO BE PORTUGUESE NATIONAL TERRITORY. OCT 15 MEETING OF COUNCIL OF STATE, PORTUGAL'S HIGHEST GOVERNING BODY, APPROVED DRAFT LAW TO ALTER CONSTITUTION IN THIS RESPECT; FORMALITY REMAINS FOR PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TO PROMULGATE CHANGE OFFICIALLY.

2. LISBON PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED SECOND SOARES INTERVIEW, GRANTED IN LISBON TO CORRESPONDENT FOR ISRAELI RADIO. SOARES STATED THAT PORTUGAL WAS STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, BUT THAT MATTER REQUIRED "TIME AND THOUGHT". SOARES REFERRED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTION AS COMPLEX ONE, GIVEN PORTUGAL'S "GOOD RELATIONS

WITH THE ARAB WORLD, WHICH WE DO NOT WISH TO BE IN THE
LEAST UNFAVORABLE", AS WELL AS THE NEW POLICY LINE PORTUGAL
WANTS TO PURSUE IN AFRICA.

3. IN SAME INTERVIEW SOARES STATED THAT OPEN RELATIONS
EXISTED BETWEEN HIS SOCIALIST PARTY (AND HIMSELF PERSONALLY)
WITH ISRAELI SOCIALISTS AND MRS. MEIR. HE ALSO NOTED THAT
ISRAELI-PORTUGUESE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, THOUGH OF NO GREAT
VOLUME, ARE CORRECT AND THAT NUMEROUS ISRAELI CITIZENS COME
TO PORTUGAL AS TOURISTS. LISBON CURRENTLY HAS AN ISRAELI
CONSULATE GENERAL.
SCOTT

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